



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Harpers Ferry National
Historical Park

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Harpers Ferry NHP News Release

Release date: Immediately
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Date: June 13, 2013

First Alert: Harpers Ferry and the Gettysburg Campaign

On June 23, 2013, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park will host a 150th anniversary Civil War commemorative event, **First Alert: Harpers Ferry and the Gettysburg Campaign**. This special event highlights the critical role Harpers Ferry played in relation to the Battle of Gettysburg. Harpers Ferry commanders had the strategic advantage of an excellent vantage point on Maryland Heights. From this high ground in June 1863, Union General Daniel Tyler provided the first alert of the Confederate invasion that resulted in the Battle of Gettysburg. While the Union Army of the Potomac under General Joseph Hooker had been perplexed at the whereabouts of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, Tyler was able to sound the alarm and pinpoint the invading forces of Robert E. Lee.

This one day commemorative event will include a talk and book signing with Tom Huntington, author of *Searching for George Gordon Meade: The Forgotten Victor of Gettysburg*, living history programs, family & youth activities and special ranger-conducted tours.

First Alert: Harpers Ferry and the Gettysburg Campaign

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| 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | <i>Maryland Heights and the First Alert</i>
Discover Harpers Ferry's role in the Gettysburg Campaign during this 2-1/2 mile Ranger-led hike to Maryland Heights. (Event Tent) |
| 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM | <i>Electing to Leave Virginia: Steps to West Virginia Statehood</i>
A few days before the "First Alert" was sounded, West Virginia became the 35 th state. Learn how and why during this Ranger talk. (Event Tent) |
| 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM | <i>Voting for Statehood</i>
Cast your vote and decide if West Virginia will be the 35 th state of the Union, again! (Dry Goods Store) |

-More-

- 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM ***Family & Youth Activities***
Dress up and learn the Civil War drill! Be a 19th century reporter!
Fun for the whole family! (Family&Youth Tent)
- 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM ***First Alert***
Join a Park Ranger to discover Harpers Ferry's role in the Gettysburg Campaign. (Event Tent)
- 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM ***Author Talk & Book Signing***
Meet Tom Huntington, the author of *Searching for George Gordon Meade: The Forgotten Victor of Gettysburg*. (Event Tent)
- 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM ***The Guns of Harpers Ferry***
Discover how Harpers Ferry survived during the Civil War and experience the sight and sound of the weapons that made Harpers Ferry famous. (Event Tent)
- 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM ***First Alert***
Join a Park Ranger to discover Harpers Ferry's role in the Gettysburg Campaign. (Event Tent)
- 4: 00 PM ***Election Results***
Learn the fate of Virginia's western counties and enjoy Election Day cake! (Event Tent)

For additional information please call 304-535-6029 or visit

www.nps.gov/hafe/
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This program is made possible through the generous support of the
Harpers Ferry Historical Association.